

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
MAY 15, 2014

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order in Room 206 at Town Hall at 8:36 a.m.

Present were First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Board of Education Chairman, Betsy Haggerty-Ross; Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman, Susan Cameron; RTM Moderator, Sarah Seelye; Board of Finance Chairman, Elizabeth Mao and State Representative, Terrie Wood. Also in attendance were Selectman Susan Marks and Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff.

Board of Education

Chairman Haggerty-Ross stated that she and her Board appreciate the Town's support of the school budget at the RTM meeting on May 12, 2014. The Board is pleased to announce that Dr. Lynne Pierson will continue as Interim Superintendent until June 30, 2015 unless a new superintendent is found before that date.

The Board will make a request for \$807,000 to the Board of Finance on May 20, 2014 for funds needed to cover special education expenditures.

Mrs. Haggerty-Ross explained that there are changes being made throughout the district with regards to who reports to whom. This will create very clearly defined lines of communication, responsibility and accountability. The Board is planning to hire a Human Resource Director. Some discussion ensued about whether or not that position would be a union position. Mrs. Mao requested a complete list of non-teaching jobs that are union and non-union.

Mrs. Stevenson strongly urged, seconded by Mrs. Wood, that the Health curriculum be revised to incorporate mental health issues and make students aware of the support systems in place to help individuals in need. It was also suggested that PE teachers receive mental health first aid training.

Board of Finance

Chairman Mao noted that while the budget passed, it's clear that taxpayers are reaching a saturation point on tax increases. There was mention of participants on a committee to work on shared services between the Town and the BOE.

First Selectman

First Selectman Stevenson plans to hold budget follow-up meetings with Department Heads to establish which services would need to be cut, should budgets be decreased in the future. This would allow taxpayers to decide which, if any, services they would choose to go without. Additionally, Mrs. Stevenson feels the Town should either spend down the General Fund Balance or issue tax returns to residents.

Parking pay stations are being installed at the train stations and Mrs. Stevenson will ask TV79 to produce and run a tutorial for commuters on how to use the pay stations.

It was announced that AT&T has made plans to install a cell tower on the private property at Ox Ridge Hunt Club. To learn more about the proposal Mrs. Stevenson encourages residents throughout Town, not just Ox Ridge neighbors, to attend a public information session at 7:30 PM on May 22, 2014 in the auditorium of Town Hall.

In response to major flooding Darien experienced in 2007, the Town hired Milone and MacBroom to study the area watersheds and make recommendations. It was recommended that FEMA review the area flood maps. Mrs. Stevenson and the Director of Planning & Zoning, Jeremy Ginsberg, have been meeting with residents who have questions and concerns about the new flood maps submitted by FEMA.

State Representative

It was noted by Terrie Wood that the session ended in Hartford a week ago with no budget increases or municipal impacts. In spite of the concerns of many community leaders throughout the State, no changes have been made to 8-30g on Affordable Housing. On June 3, 2014 the Library will host a meeting on Regionalism with the people who drafted the legislation. The meeting will take place at 7:00 PM and Mrs. Wood stated that this is a very important meeting which all town leaders should attend.

Representative Town Meeting

Mrs. Seelye mentioned items that are expected to be on the June 9, 2014 RTM agenda. Items mentioned were the BOE request for additional funds, acceptance of the Garden Club gift for Cherry Lawn Park and the DAF gift of turf fields to the BOE.

9:20 a.m. Mrs. Wood left to attend another meeting.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Ms. Cameron said that her commission would ask AT&T to fly a test balloon in the location and at the same height as the proposed cell tower at Ox Ridge Hunt Club. The Planning & Zoning Commission will hear a second presentation for a Plan of Conservation & Development. Lastly, Ms. Cameron discussed Mrs. Penny Glassmeyer's plans to build age restricted housing off Settlers Trail.

Mrs. Hagerty-Ross motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Cameron. By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary